

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, December 21, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, December 21, 1844.

My dear Mr. Blair, Your kind and interestting letter of the 8th instant is received and before me. Your kind indulgence, with that of Mr. Rives with regard to the mony you loaned us, is appreciated with that feeling of gratitude it deserves, and will be duly cherished as long as life last. Your debt is well secured and we will make it a good six percent stock until the principle is wanted, by the payment of the interest punctually, and the principle whenever you require it. Please present my thanks to Mr. Rives with my kind regards for this indulgence.

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My dear sarah has just read to me the second time Mr. Ingersols scorching reply to John Q. Adams abusive and unprovoked attack upon him and myself. 1 It is the severest castigation and witherin sarcasm I ever read, and must prostrate that old lying scamp. Adams must sink under it, and I would not be surprised to hear that he was stricken down by a paralytic stroke. How can he bear to be placed before the world as destitute of truth, or candeur. Will he attempt a reply.?How can he with such facts from record staring him in the face. give to Mr. Ingersol for the defence he has made for me and the meritted castigation he has given to this lying serpent, my kind regards. . . .

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1 Probably refers to C. J. Ingersoll's "Criticism of John Quincy Adams's speeches on Texas," published in Washington, Dec. 7, 1844. The reply was very severe and supported Jackson fully. See Niles's Register, LXVII. 284–287.

How I regret to see our mutual friend Col. Benton persist in his folly of presenting his old bill for the reannexation of Texas. The col. must know that Texas will never agree to come into our union as an appendage of Mexico, or under her consent, and I was in hopes he would have seized the precious moment under the declaration of Mexico, that she never would consent, to have relieved himself from the absurdity, after we had acknowledged Texas independant etc. etc. etc. To insult Texas by still viewing her as an apendage of Mexico, but more hereafter. The col. stood first in the confidence of the democracy, but he, by his course on the Texas question, has shaken that confidence; and his persisting in the prosecution of his bill, will, I fear, close the door against his recovering that confidence heretofore reposed in him by the democracy. no one can regret this more than me.

I had no idea how much injury the circulation of Col. Bentons speech published and circulated by the whigs in the Globe throughout Louisina, had done until the other day, when several leading Louisiana democrats visitted me. The Whiggs there, as in Tennessee, met our speakers on the Texas question, by the Col. speech in the Globe. They had two objects in view, the first to blind the people by holding forth Col. as our leading democrat and you as sponser. This was to injure him and you by identifying you both as the supporter of Clay on the Texian question, and in this way deceive the people. not one Globe that contained Mr. Buchannan speech was ever exhibitted by the whiggs, but the Globe by hundreds containing Bentons speech. I was happy to have it in my power to put them right upon this subject, and they all left me with their former confidence in you, and the Globe. But believe me, great prejudice had been taken up against you, by the artfull contrivance of the whiggs which I trust I have set right. But still my friend, I fear there are some of our democratic friends, who are trying to bring about a partnership of which I wrote you, which shews a want of confidence or something worse. Be on your guard—

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no partnerships—you have the confidence of the great body of the democrats, and I have no confidence in shifting politicians. some aspiring politicians some times change their friendships for selfish views. . . .